

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in this chamber on June 14, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 234 and "yea" on rollcall votes 232, 233 and 235.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KENT LINDSAY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Kent Lindsay and thank him for his dedication to Colorado as a two-term Montezuma County Commissioner. His dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for his constituents. As Kent celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Montezuma County and the State of Colorado.

A lifelong resident of Montezuma County, Kent is the third generation owner of El Grande Cafe in Cortez. He is very active in the community, serving for fifteen years on the local fire department and is currently the Fire Chief. As a county commissioner, Kent was instrumental in rewriting the Land Use Plan and in creating the Stewardship Committee involving rangeland and grazing. He also worked closely in the development of the Dolores River Valley Plan, and plans to stay involved in the issues affecting Montezuma County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Commissioner Kent Lindsay before this body of Congress and this nation, and to congratulate him on an outstanding career of public service. His selfless dedication to his community and the people of Colorado as a Montezuma County Commissioner is truly remarkable. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Thanks for your service.

HONORING JUDY BENTLEY

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judy Bentley, the President and CEO of Community Health-in Partnership Services (CHIPS) in St. Louis. Ms. Bentley was recently selected as a 2004 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. She was one of just ten people nationally to be selected for this prestigious award, which includes a grant of over \$105,000 to enhance her work.

A nurse practitioner and native of St. Louis, Ms. Bentley was inspired to enter the healthcare field after her diagnosis of uterine cancer in 1975.

Ms. Bentley founded CHIPS in 1990, and it remains the only free health clinic serving the

mostly uninsured residents of north St. Louis. In its first year, CHIPS served about 250 clients in its meager facility in the basement of a local church. In 1991, the clinic moved to a new 5,600-square-foot facility. Currently run by a staff of 10 full and parttime employees, along with a core of 19 volunteer professionals, CHIPS provides health screenings and primary-level health care to about 1,000 clients a month through both its outreach and in facility services.

Ms. Bentley has also implemented a unique outreach program to provide prevention and health education in non-traditional community settings including banks, grocery stores, beauty salons, barbershops, and homeless centers. Ms. Bentley also promotes workforce development by hiring and training lay health educators to go door-to-door, enrolling clients, and has implemented an intergenerational program in which teens in the youth development program work with senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Bentley for this national award, and express my gratitude for her determination and leadership. Her work among the medically underserved has undoubtedly inspired many others in St. Louis and elsewhere to take action. It is an honor to recognize her today for her important work and this well deserved award.

IN HONOR OF SHARON KELSO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to commend an amazing woman from my congressional district, Sharon Kelso. Sharon has been one of the most positive forces in Fairfax County throughout the years and I am proud of all that she has accomplished to help those less fortunate throughout the county. She is a friend and someone that I admire greatly. Sharon will be retiring after faithful and selfless service to United Community Ministries and the people of Fairfax County.

The main legacy Sharon will leave behind is her work as Executive Director of United Community Ministries. When she first began working for UCM, the agency had not existed for long, and its focus was smaller than what Sharon thought it could accomplish. With her vision and dedication, UCM has grown into one of the most important organizations in northern Virginia. One of her most lasting contributions was to establish the first walk-in clinic for the uninsured using volunteer doctors, nurses and technicians. Since that time, the citizens of Fairfax County have seen additional clinics open up for those without health insurance.

While her work for UCM would be enough to fill anyone's time, Sharon wanted to give even more assistance to her community. She has served on numerous boards and committees to help better Fairfax County for all who chose to make it their home. As Co-Chair of the Homeless Oversight Committee, Sharon has helped to implement strategies to prevent homelessness throughout the county. Knowing that affordable housing is one of the most important issues in this area, she has worked on the Affordable Dwelling Unit Task Force which

ensures that the affordable dwelling ordinances are effective, and through her service on the Fairfax Committee of 100 Board of Directors she has helped evaluate the lack of affordable housing for those who need it.

Sharon Kelso has also taken on an advocacy role and was often lobbying for issues relating to human services needs, childcare, child abuse and neglect, health and mental health care and homelessness. She also worked with her local Chamber of Commerce to lobby the Fairfax Board of Supervisors to maintain affordable housing. It is through her efforts that these issues have been brought to the forefront for the leaders and community activists of Fairfax County.

While Sharon is retiring from UCM and moving out of the area, I am certain she will continue to work on behalf of those who need help the most. Her work has vastly improved the lives of thousands of families throughout the community and Virginia. Sharon's vision and dedication has touched many people and will ensure a bright future for generations to come. I congratulate Sharon on her retirement. More importantly, I say thank you for making such a difference in the Northern Virginia area.

ON THE PASSING OF BUDDY BRACKIN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of Newman C. "Buddy" Brackin. Buddy had a tremendous impact in my district over nearly 28 years as Okaloosa County Clerk of the Circuit Court.

The son of a former Florida Senate president, Buddy came into politics with a solid base of knowledge. He had taught middle and high school in Northwest Florida and worked in real estate, but he knew it was time for him to run for the Okaloosa Clerk's office in 1976, and his win in that election reaffirmed his belief. His successive re-election was a clear indicator that Buddy was the right man for the job. Indeed, it was not until his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer that he decided not to seek an eighth term.

Buddy's tenure as County Clerk saw the office of the Clerk nearly triple in size, and with his help the office saw much-needed improvements in the smoothness of its day-to-day operations. It is doubtful that many would have disagreed with his intent six months ago to seek an eighth term, so respected was he on both a professional and personal level by all who knew him.

My prayers go out to Buddy's wife Blanche, his sons Mark and Bryan, and all others who mourn the loss of a great public servant. He loved his family as they loved him, his loss will have a vast impact on so many.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with no small amount of sorrow that I tell of the passing of Buddy Brackin from this world, and his family is in my thoughts and prayers.